

Notes on Some British *Platypalpus* Macquart  
(Dipt.: Empididae), including a Species New to  
Science, Two New to Britain and New Synonymy

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The following notes were accumulated during the study of European species of *Platypalpus* in preparation for the Tachydromiinae volume of the *Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica* series by one of us (Chvála, 1975) and the routine collection, acquisition or determination by the other (K.G.V.S.). Opportunity is taken to draw attention to all changes or additions to the British List of *Platypalpus* since the comprehensive monograph by Collin (1961). This justifies the nomenclature used in the genus in the revised Kloet and Hincks *Check List of British Insects* (Smith, 1975) although the new species described and some other information was not to hand in time for inclusion in that work. Collin's (1961) arguments for the usage of *Tachydromia* Meigen for this genus are not now accepted by other workers in the family and we follow world opinion on the use *Platypalpus* Macquart.

For convenience the species treated are listed alphabetically. Additions to the Check List are marked\*, additional distribution records are given only for the scarcer species.

*P. albicornis* Zetterstedt. — Collin knew this as a British species from only two males and six females from Cambs., Oxford and Suffolk. In the British Museum (Natural History) is one female: Herts., Letchworth, 20.v.1923, F. W. Edwards.

*P. albifacies* Collin. — We can add one record to the nine counties listed by Collin: Andrewes (1965) has added Wiltshire: — Devon, Torquay, 15-29.vi.1960, J. R. Vockeroth (specimens in Entomological Research Institute, Ottawa).

*P. albocapillatus* Fallén. — We can add one Irish record to the distribution given by Collin of this sea coast species: Eire; Galway, Streamstown Bay, near Clifden, 20.vii.1967, C. E. Dyte.

*P. alter* Collin. — Known from only three females from Loch Garten, Inverness, until males were described from Glen Einich in the same county (Smith, 1969).

\**P. analis* Meigen. — New to Britain, the only known specimen is a male: Sussex, Slindon, 17.vii.1951, G. E. Shewell (see Chvála, 1975: 200). *P. analis* is a large (3.5-4.2 mm.) species with a yellowish abdomen, a very small polished sternopleural spot and irregularly tri-quadriseal acrostichal bristles. In Collin (1961) it keys to couplet 130,131 containing *paldiventris* Meigen and *extricata* Collin from which it can be distinguished by the characters given above. Abroad it occurs from Scandinavia along the Baltic coast south to central Europe.

*P. annulatus* Fallén. — To the 11 counties listed by Collin we can add the following: Surrey, Headley, 17.viii.1941, G. E.

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Shewell; Sussex, Slindon, 16-20.vii.1951, G. E. Shewell (both in E.R.I., Ottawa); Ayr, West Kilbride, 4.vii.1948, C. N. Colyer.

*P. aristatus* Collin. — Collin had seen specimens from only Hereford, Oxford and Suffolk. Andrewes (1965) found it in Wiltshire and we can add the following: Devon, Torquay, 20.vi.1960, J. R. Vockeroth; Hants., New Forest, 28.v.1950, C. N. Colyer; Herts., Knebworth, 6.v.1923, F. W. Edwards; Surrey, New Malden, 16.vi.1932, R. L. Coe.

*P. aurantiacus* Collin. — This is the only yellow British *Platypalpus* with two pairs of vertical bristles and was known from only two females; Suffolk, Orford, 20.vi.1907, J. E. Collin (the type) and Suffolk, Ampton, 26.iv.1912, C. G. Nurse, until Mr. P. J. Chandler took two females in Surrey (Chandler, 1967). On 26.v.1974 Mr. J. W. Ismay took a female at Seamere, Norfolk (grid ref. 53/033012) and on 29.v.1975, in company with the owner Mr. C. Gosling, he and K.G.V.S. revisited the same locality and collected eight males and six females by sweeping Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis* L.). On the same day Ismay took a female at Bawburgh, Norfolk (grid ref. TG157087). The male closely resembles the female except for the blackish genitalia which are illustrated in figs. 1 and 3.

*P. articulatus* Macquart. — Collin records this from only Cambs., Suffolk and Surrey, since when Mr. John Ismay has taken a female at Cringleford, Norfolk, 11.vi.1974.

*P. commutatus* Srobl (= *interpola* Collin **syn.n.**). Collin really described his species *interpola* because Strobl's description of *commutatus* was inadequate. However, an examination of the type has established this synonymy. Collin recorded *interpola* from Aberdeenshire, Inverness and Sutherland. We have seen undoubted *commutatus* from Inverness, Cairngorm, N.R., Glen Enich, 5.ix.1966, D. M. Ackland.

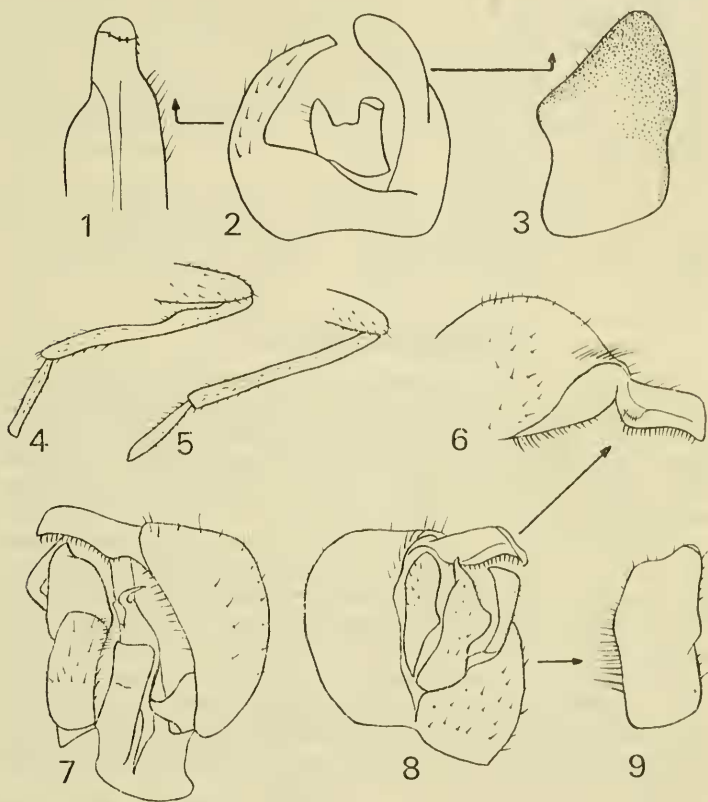
*P. cothurnatus* Macquart. — Collin recorded this species from Cambs., Hereford, Notts., Oxford and Suffolk. We can add the following: Devon, Torquay, 20.vi.1960, J. R. Vockeroth; Gloucester, Westbury, Bristol, 12.vi.1961, M. Ackland.

*P. cryptospina* Frey (= *tantula* Collin). — This synonymy was established by Chvála (1972). Collin had seen specimens from Berks., Hants., Orford, Suffolk and Westmorland. We can add the following: Devon, Torquay, 19.vi.1960, J. R. Vockeroth; Sussex, Slindon, 21.vi.1961, 16.vii.1951, G. F. Shewell.

*P. difficilis* Frey (= *interjectus* Lundbeck). This synonymy was established by Chvála (1972). See also *P. tuomikoskii* Chvála below.

*P. excisus* (Becker). — This species has been confused with *P. nigritarsis* (Fallén) from which it may be distinguished by the shallow median excision beneath the middle tibiae in the male (figs. 4 & 5) and by the colour of the mid femora which are darkened on the whole length above. The genitalia are figured by Chvála and Kovalev (1974) who first recorded it from Britain: England, Beachy Head, Sussex, 14.v.1943, one female, G. E. Shewell (in E.R.I., Ottawa). We can now add the following records: England: Cambs., Newmarket, 19.vi.1886, G. H.

Verrall; Norfolk, Marthom, 13.vi.1904, G. H. Verrall. Wales: Glamorgan, Porthcawl, 13.v.1904, J. W. Yerbury. Scotland: Arran, Catacol. Sept. 1920, J. Waterton.



Figs. 1-3, *Platypalpus aurantiaca* Collin, male genitalia; 1, right perandrial lamella from inside; 2, perandrium with cerci; 3, left perandrial lamella; 4, male hind tibia of *Platypalpus excisus* (Becker); 5, male hind tibia of *Platypalpus nigratarsis* (Fallén); 6-9, *Platypalpus inexpectatus* sp.n., male genitalia; 6, detail of right perandrial lamella; 7-8, two views of perandrium with cerci; 9, left perandrial lamella.

*P. exilis* Meigen. — This uncommon species resembles *P. aurantiacus* Collin but has only one pair of vertical bristles and is distinguished by the characters mentioned under that species above. Collin (1961) records it from Devon, Hereford, Oxford, Anglesey, Suffolk and Cambs. in England; Brodie and Dunphail (Elgin), Flowerburn and Dingwall (Ross) in Scotland. Andrewes (1965) has found it in Wiltshire and we can add the following distribution: — England: Hants., Farley Down, 20.v.1936, F. W. Edwards; Herts., Letchworth, 14.vi.1923, F. W. Edwards; Hunts., Woodwalton Fen, 9.vi.1968 [?D. M. Ackland]; Norfolk, Seamore, 29.v.1975, J. Ismay and K. G. V. Smith, Ringland, 29.v.1975, J. Ismay, K. G. V. Smith, Swanton Novers (N.N.R.),

27.v.1975, J. Ismay. Wales: Glamorgan, Porthcawl, 1.vi.1906, 15.vi.1906, 9.vii.1906, J. W. Yerbury. Scotland: Sutherland, Golspies, 14, 16.vi.1904, J. W. Yerbury; Perth, Killin, Bienn nan Eachan, 31.v.1932, F. W. Edwards.

*P. fasciatus* Meigen. — We can add the following records to the distribution given by Collin. Andrewes (1965) has found it in Wiltshire: — England: Dorset, Throop, 5.vii.1941, G. E. Shewell; Herts., Baldock, 8.vii.1933, F. W. Edwards. Scotland: Aviemore, vii.1903, J. J. F. X. King; Midlothian, Edinburgh, Musselburgh, 28.vii.1906, A. E. J. Carter; Peebles, Stobo, 17.viii, J. W[aterton].

*P. incertus* Collin. — Collin gives Cambs., Hants., Surrey, Oxford, Suffolk. We can add: — Bucks., Wormsley Park, J. E. Collin (B.M. 1935-602); Sussex, Slindon, 16.vii.1951, G. E. Shewell.

### ***Platylapus inexpectatus* sp.n.**

Diagnosis. Yellow species of the *P. ciliaris*-group, mesonotum polished with dark median stripe, 4 to 6-serial minute acrostichals separated from multiserial dorsocentrals. Antennae short, black; legs yellow with last tarsal segment black and mid tibia apically swollen and covered by dense coating of whitish pile on apical half.

Male. Head black in ground colour and rather densely dark grey dusted. Frons broad, as deep as antennal segment 2 and widening opposite hind ocelli, face very linear. Vertex and upper half of occiput clothed with numerous short adpressed pale hairs, anterior pair of ocellar bristles minute, vertical bristles not differentiated. Lower half of occiput with longer erect pale hairs. Antennae black, segment 3 slightly longer than deep, arista much longer. Palpi yellow and finely pale haired, rather large (slightly shorter than the black proboscis) and somewhat pointed at tip.

Thorax deep yellow to yellowish-brown, mesonotum polished with a broad dark median stripe which is narrower posteriorly and disappears in hind quarter of mesonotum. Whole of pleura except largely polished sternopleura, humeri, narrow mesonotal margins inclusive of postalar calli, and scutellum with metanotum, greyish dusted. All thoracic hairs pale with the exception of the apical pair of long scutellar bristles which are brownish. Acrostichal and dorsocentral bristles minute; former irregularly 4- to 6- serial but disappearing on posterior quarter of mesonotum, narrowly but distinctly separated from multiserial dorsocentrals which become longer posteriorly. Large bristles not very long: 2 notopleural, 1 postalar, and outer pair of scutellars; humeral bristle very minute, scarcely differentiated from other pubescence.

Legs yellow but last tarsal segment on all three pairs contrasting black. Armature and shape of legs practically as in *P. ciliaris*: fore femora slender, longer pale hairs antero- and posteroventrally; mid femora only very slightly stouter, somewhat swollen on basal half with long dark bristles in two more

widely separated rows and conspicuous whitish pile between the rows; the bristles in posterior row especially long, not much shorter than femur is deep; apical slender half of femur with much shorter black bristles ventrally in two rows closer together and without whitish pile between them. Hind femora slender with longer pale hairs dorsally and ventrally. Fore tibiae only finely short haired; mid tibiae ventrally with a row of black bristly hairs, apical half of tibia swollen and covered by dense coating of whitish pile; no apical spur. Hind tibiae densely pale haired everywhere, posteriorly at tip with a comb of pale bristly hairs. Tarsi slender and short haired but all metatarsi with somewhat longer and more densely placed pale hairs ventrally.

Wings large and almost clear with brown veins, vein  $R_{4+5}$  and M practically parallel on apical sections, second basal cell slightly longer than first basal cell. The vein closing anal cell very recurrent, anal vein distinct. Squamae yellowish-brown with long pale fringes, halteres whitish-brown, stalks yellowish-brown.

Abdomen subshining dark brown on tergites, yellowish on sternites, clothed and scattered pale hairs becoming longer on posterior margin of last segment. Genitalia (figs. 6-9) rather large, as deep as abdomen; periandrial lamellae yellowish, right lamella (fig. 6) large and almost rectangular, left lamella (fig. 9) smaller and narrower, apically pointed. Cerci conspicuously broadened and dark apically, narrow base pale yellow.

Length: body 2.6 mm., wing 3.3. mm.

Female. Unknown.

Holotype male: England, Devon, Heathfield, 2.ix.1960 leg. J. R. Vockeroth; deposited in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London.

The new species resembles superficially *P. pectoralis* (Fall.) owing to its yellow ground-colouration and the presence of a dark median stripe on the mesonotum, but it has much more in common with *P. ciliaris* (Fall.), particularly the separated acrostichals on the mesonotum, the same armature on mid femora, and mid tibia similarly swollen on apical half with a dense coating of whitish pile. However, *ciliaris* is a black species in ground-colour like *P. parvicauda* (Coll.), with more distinct hair-like and mostly quadriserial acrostichals, and very conspicuous globose male genitalia. *P. parvicauda* has the acrostichals bi- to tri-serial, very small male genitalia and the small bristles on the apical slender part of the mid femora confined to a few small spines near the tip. There are two "yellow" species of the same group, which need to be compared with the above newly described species, viz., *P. pectoralis* (Fall.) and *P. mikii* (Becker), the latter especially in its pale form *tristriolata* (Oldenberg, 1939) with yellowish mesonotum with a dark median stripe. Both these species have the black ventral bristles on mid femora almost uniformly long, becoming gradually shorter towards tip; *pectoralis* has a somewhat longer antennal segment 3 (about twice as long as deep) and basal segments often brownish, acrostichals and dorsocentrals numerous even if small, evenly and densely distributed over mesonotum inclusive of its posterior



quarter, mid tibia practically not swollen, with only slight coating of whitish pile at tip; *mikii* has the mid tibiae as in the new species and *ciliaris*, but conspicuously velvety brown on the swollen apical half, mesonotum with distinct hair-like quadriserial acrostichals, pleurae mostly shining and antennae with very short segment 3 and basal segments yellow. The male genitalia of the new species are, with the large and apically flattened cerci, quite distinct from those of all other related species.

*P. infectus* Collin.—This remains a very little known species in Britain recorded from Suffolk and Sussex by Collin (1961) and Wiltshire by Andrewes (1965), but it has been found to occur not uncommonly in Scandinavia (Chvála, 1975).

*P. leucocephalus* v. Roser.—Collin records this from Cambs., Kent, Oxford, Suffolk and the Isle of Wight (Hants.) and Andrewes has found it in Wiltshire. In the British Museum (Natural History) there is a single female over the label *leucocephala* from one of the Hereford localities mentioned by Collin for his closely related *luteola*, however it is quite distinct on the characters given by Collin, the major one being the shining sternopleural spot: Hereford, Stoke Wood, 20.vi.1910, J. H. Wood.

*P. leucothrix* Strobl.—Recorded by Collin from only Kent, Gloucester and Surrey. We can add one further record: Sussex, Slindon, 16.vii.1951, G. E. Shewell.

*P. longimanus* Corti.—This species was added to the British List from specimens taken by Sir Christopher Andrewes in Wiltshire (Smith, 1969). It has not been found since.

*P. longiseta* Zetterstedt (= *extricatus* Collin).—This synonymy was only recently established (Chvála, 1971) and overlooked in the Check List (Smith, 1975). Collin gives no Welsh or Irish records and we can thus add:—Wales: Glamorgan, Porthcawl, 21.vi.1906, J. W. Yerbury. Eire: Co. Clare, The Burren, Kilnaboy, 1960, R. L. Coe.

*P. luteus* Meigen.—We can add four counties to the distribution given by Collin, and Andrewes adds Wiltshire:—Berks., Wytham Wood, 1.vii.1968; Somerset, N., Failand, 1.viii.1959, A. C. Pont; Middlesex, Wood Green, 18.vii.1951, C. N. Colyer; Surrey, Coulsdon, 25.vii.1941, G. E. Shewell (E.R.I., Ottawa). Chandler (1967) has recorded the species from Kent.

*P. major* Zetterstedt.—Collin records this large species from Berkshire [Bagley Wood is not Oxford], Hereford, Sussex in England; Glamorgan in Wales; Cromarty and Elgin in Scotland. Andrewes found it in Wiltshire and Chandler has found it in Kent. We can add:—England: Devon, Torquay, 19.vi.1960, J. R. Vockeroth; Gloucester; Chedworth, 5.vi.1936, F. W. Edwards; Somerset; Leigh Woods, Bristol, 24.v.1961, M. Ackland. Scotland: Inverness, Craigellachie, near Aviemore, 20.vi.1968, M. Ackland.

*P. optivus* Collin.—Recorded from Glamorgan, Hereford, Oxford, Cambs., Suffolk and Hants. by Collin and Wiltshire by Andrewes, we can add: Berks., Bagley Woods, 3.vii.1966, M.

Ackland; Bucks., Bradenham, 29.v.1949, C. N. Colyer; Devon, Torquay, 25.vi.1960 and Hay Tor, Dartmoor, 22.vi.1960, J. R. Vockeroth; Gloucester, Bristol, Westbury, 31.v.1961, M. Ackland; Somerset, N., Weston-super-Mare, 5.viii.1962, M. Ackland.

*P. pallidicornis* Collin. — Collin had seen this from Cambs., Kent, Essex, Herefordshire and Suffolk. We can add the following: Hunts., Wood Walton, 9-11.vi.1939, R. L. Coe; Oxford, 12.vi.1967, M. Ackland; Sussex; Bilsham, 18.vi.1951, G. E. Shewell.

*P. pallidicoxa* Frey (= *agilella* Collin). — This synonymy was established by Chvála (1972) after being proposed by Frey (1943) but not accepted by Collin (1961).

*P. parvicauda* Collin. — We can add two counties to the distribution given by Collin: Suffolk, Woodbridge, 31.viii.1907, J. W. Yerbury; Scotland, Ayr, Fairlie, 8.vii.1948, C. N. Colyer.

*P. pictitarsis* Becker. — Recorded by Collin from only Berks., Cambs., Essex and Oxford, we can add: Sussex, Bilsham, 18.vi.1951, G. E. Shewell.

*P. praecinctus* Collin. — Collin had seen specimens from only Essex, Kent, Suffolk and Surrey. Andrewes has found it in Wiltshire and we can add the following: Sussex, Ditchling Common, 1.viii.1951, G. E. Shewell.

*P. pseudociliaris* Strobl (= *calcarata* Collin). — This synonymy was established by Chvála (1972). Collin recorded it from Hereford and Oxford in England and from Inverness, Perth and Sutherland in Scotland. We can add the following: Devon, Torquay, 25.vi.1960, J. R. Vockeroth.

*P. pygialis* Chvála (= *albiseta* Panzer var. *pygialis* Collin). — Originally described (Collin, 1961) from Norfolk (Upton) this was raised to species by Chvála (1973) who also recorded it from Czechoslovakia and the European part of the U.S.S.R. Since Collin described the "variety" after 1960 the name *pygialis* on acquiring specific status was attributed to Chvála in accordance with Article 15e ii and 10b of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*.

*P. strigifrons* Zetterstedt. — Collin comments that this is essentially a sea-coast species and records it from Glamorgan (Wales), Essex, Kent (England) and Aberlady (E. Lothian), Cromarty (Ross and Cromarty) and Nairn in Scotland. The following are additional records: — England: Cambs., Snailwell, 17.ix.1908, G. H. Verrall; Devon, Torquay, 22.viii.1960 and Dawlish Warren, 25.viii.1960, J. R. Vockeroth; Dorset, Studland, 19.viii.1906, 1.ix.1906, J. W. Yerbury; Norfolk, Palling on Sea, 8.viii.1906, J. W. Yerbury and Waxham, viii.1923, F. W. Edwards; Suffolk, Aldeburgh, 18, 29.ix.1907, J. W. Yerbury and Leiston, 26.ix.1907, J. W. Yerbury. Scotland: Inverness, Nethy Bridge, 19.vi.1905, J. W. Yerbury. Eire: Arklow, vii.1940, B. P. Biérne; Wicklow, Killoughter, 15.viii.1951, K. G. V. Smith.

*P. subtilis* Collin. — Collin said that he knew this species only from Herefordshire, but in the British Museum there are Welsh specimens from the Verrall collection over this name but

labelled “? *maculimana*” (as were the Hereford *subtilis*): Abergavenny, Monmouth, 12.viii.1910, G. H. Verrall.

\**P. tuomikoskii* Chvála. — An addition to the British List. Collin (1961) included material of this species from Barton Mills, Suffolk, under *interjecta* Lundbeck (= *difficilis* Frey, see above). This species may be separated from *difficilis* as follows:

1. Third antennal segment almost four times as long as deep; arista only half as long as third antennal segment ..... *difficilis* Frey
  - Third antennal segment at most three times as long as deep; arista as long as segment 3 ..... *tuomikoskii* Chvála
- Related non-British species are discussed by Chvála (1972).

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### CORRECTION

Reference “The Second Brood of *Apatele euphorbiae* s.sp. *myricae* Gn. in the West of England” by H. C. Huggins (*antea* **88**: 82), for “England” read “Ireland”.